KINDAICHI SHOUNEN NO JIKENBO

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CHAPTER 3

20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION SERIES

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SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

Shouja Sense

AUTHOR: AMAKI SEIMARU

The Man-Eating Research Institute Case

MANGA: SATOU FUMIYA

人喰い研究所
殺人事件
第3話

SHOW ME YOUR HEART~ MEET THE ONE YOU LOVE, OH~♪
NO ONE IS ALONE~ THAT'S WHY YOU'RE NOT ALONE~ ALWAYS~
BEHIND THAT LONELY FEEL-ING, I'VE FOUND TEN-DERNESS~
DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY!
WHEW!! MAYU, BEER!
THERE IT IS! HAJIME-CHAN'S SPECIAL-TY!
YES!
KINDAICHI-KUN!
NO WAY~ YOU'RE THE SAME AS EVER.

Haha! Such an unfitting opening!!
SORRY, NAKAGAMI-SAN, WE STARTED THE WELCOMING PARTY WITHOUT YOU!
HAHAHA. YOU'RE THE YOUNG CHIEF'S FRIENDS, AFTER ALL.
SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING!
WE DON'T HAVE ANY BEER, BUT WE HAVE SOME JUICE AND CHIPS!
THEN, ONLY WHEN YOUR FRIENDS ARE AROUND, I'LL JUST CALL YOU "MAYU-CHAN", LIKE I USED TO,
CHIEF.
HAHA. THEY DID SAY THAT, DIDN'T THEY?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT. SINCE A LONG TIME AGO, PEOPLE HAVE THOUGHT OF YOU AS SOMEONE LIKE MY BROTHER, EVEN IF I DIDN'T LIKE THEM SAYING SO!
NAKAGAMI-SAN, PLEASE STOP IT WITH THE "CHIEF"!
SFX: DROOP
NO WAY, THEY REALLY DO!
AH... TOLD YOU THEY HAD A KARAOKE ROOM, AYANE!
Chuckle
GEEZ! NAKAGAMI-SAN...

WHEN ONE LABORATORY ROOM WAS TURNED INTO A LIVING QUARTER, THE MANAGER AND I, HAJIMA-SAN, SET IT UP.
Calling it "weird" is so mean!
WHEN DID YOU SET UP A KARAOKE ROOM, NAKAGAMI-KUN?
SOMEONE WAS SINGING IN A WEIRD VOICE. IT WAS HEARD THROUGH THE OPEN WINDOW.
TANISE-SAN. ZAIZEN-SAN!
FORTUNATELY, WE COULD USE THE PHONE LINES SINCE WE DON'T HAVE INTERNET HERE...
I FIGURED IT'D BE BETTER TO HAVE SOME SORT OF KARAOKE AROUND.
'CAUSE IT'S NOT FUN AT ALL HERE, IS IT?
AH, BUT THIS ITEM FITS RIGHT IN WITH THE SHOWA ATMOSPHERE, RIGHT?
THIS BLACK TELEPHONE JUST DOESN'T WORK FOR SOME REASON!
IT'S HARD TO USE THE DIAL AND ALL...
SPEAKING OF THE PHONE...
THERE'S NO EXTENSION LINE, SO WHEN YOU WANT TO CALL SOMEONE, YOU USE THE DIRECT PHONE LINES.
THIS BLACK TELEPHONE IS ONE AMONG SEVERAL IN THIS AND THE NEXT DOOR'S BUILDINGS.
SEE?
OTOHIKO ...
WHOA! THIS PHONE IS PRETTY HEAVY!
AND IT STILL WORKS!

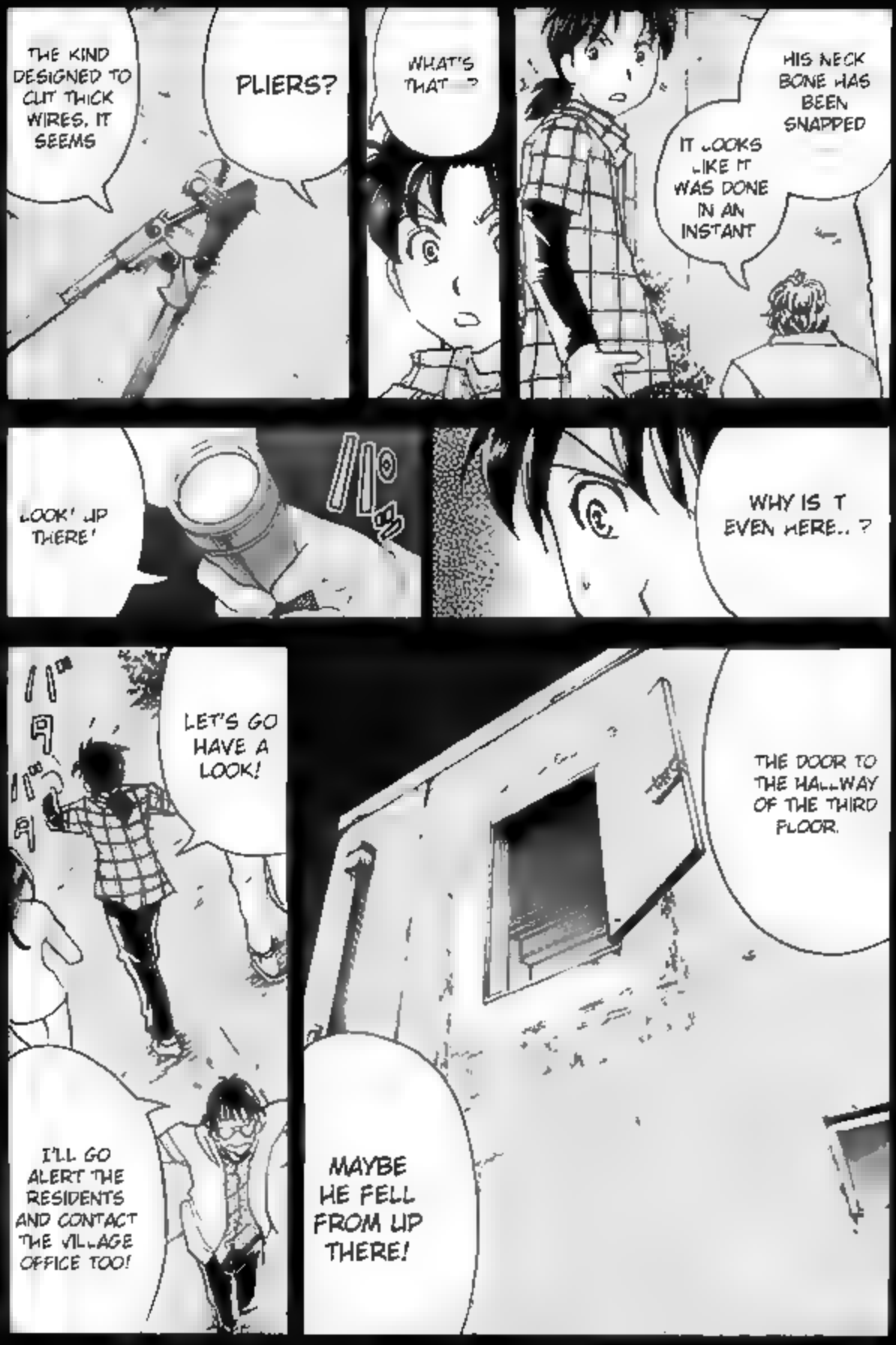
I'LL SING ONE MORE!
OKAY! IF NO ONE ELSE WANTS TO,
REALLY? I'VE BECOME USED TO IT BY NOW, MIYUKI!
CELLPHONES NOT WORKING SEEM LIKE AN INCONVENIENCE...
OH...? FROM HYDROPOWER TO WIND?
DID YOU KNOW THAT DUE TO THE LANDSLIDE DISASTER FROM 20 YEARS AGO, THE ROADS AND THE ELECTRIC LINES WERE ALL CUT OFF?
JUST NOW, THE LIGHTS BLACKED OUT FOR AN INSTANT...
AH, YES... WHEN THE WINDMILLS START TURNING, THE POWER SWITCHES FROM RUNNING ON HYDROPOWER TO RUNNING ON WIND POWER.
...HUH?
THOUGH THE DAM AND THE WINDMILLS WERE BOTH BUILT DURING THE 2ND WORLD WAR, WITH THE PROPER MAINTENANCE, THEY CAN STILL WORK WELL TO THIS DAY.
EVERY DAY, WHEN THE WIND BLOWS THROUGH THE VALLEY, THE WINDMILLS WILL BE WORKING AT THEIR MAXIMUM, AND THE POWER AUTOMATICALLY SWITCHES TO THEM.
THE LABORATORIES IMMEDIATELY SET UP A BACKUP SOURCE - WINDMILLS THAT WERE BUILT ALONG THE CLIFF. THESE ALLOWED FOR WIND POWER GENERATION.
SINCE THEN, THOSE VERY THIN ELECTRIC LINES WERE RESTORED, BUT THEY WERE INSUFFICIENT FOR THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE. DURING THE WAR, A DAM WAS CONSTRUCTED - ONE THAT RUNS ON HYDROELECTRIC POWER.

HASN'T WANIBE-SAN COME BY YET?
I DID INVITE HIM EARLIER, BUT STRANGELY, HE WAS FEELING PRETTY DOWN...
NOWADAYS, AT THAT PARTICULAR TIME, THE POWER GOES OUT FOR JUST A MOMENT.
HMM.
WHAT AN ECO-FRIENDLY VILLAGE.
I REMEMBERED SOME THINGS EVER SINCE I CAME BACK HERE...
I... THAT PERSON...
HUH?
IT'S NOT THAT I CAN'T, BUT I'M JUST NOT IN THE MOOD.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, WANIBE-SAN? YOU DON'T LOOK THAT WELL.
HMM... THEN WHAT ABOUT MAKINE-SAN?
OH, DRAT! I FORGOT TO INVITE HIM.
...HM?
WELL... I THOUGHT I HEARD...
WHAT'S WRONG, NAKAGAMI-SAN?

PLEASE FORGIVE ME! IT WASN'T MY FAULT...!
THE BAD ONE IS THAT PERSON!!
IT'S NOT ME!!
THAT'S... FROM THE 3RD FLOOR...?
WHAT?
SFX: WAAAAAH...
うわあああ
SFX: THUD
ドオン
EEK!
W-WHAT WAS THAT AWFUL NOISE!?
THIS IS BAD...
LET'S HURRY!
!?
HAJIMA-SAN!
...
WHAT JUST...

!
...
IT... COULDN'T BE...
I ALSO HEARD SOME SORT OF NOISE AND RUSHED OVER,
BUT I WAS A BIT TOO LATE.
EEEEEK!!

WA...
WANIBE-
SAN!!


PLIERS?
THE KIND DESIGNED TO CUT THICK WIRES, IT SEEMS
WHAT'S THAT...?
HIS NECK BONE HAS BEEN SNAPPED
IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS DONE IN AN INSTANT
LOOK! UP THERE!
WHY IS T EVEN HERE..?
LET'S GO HAVE A LOOK!
THE DOOR TO THE HALLWAY OF THE THIRD FLOOR.
I'LL GO ALERT THE RESIDENTS AND CONTACT THE VILLAGE OFFICE TOO!
MAYBE HE FELL FROM UP THERE!

W... WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!?
!?
ON THE FLOOR!?
THEN, DID THE SAME HAPPEN TO THE REST OF OUR ROOMS?
AND THE LABORA-TORIES.
YES, WE SHOULD GO CHECK ON THE GUEST ROOMS.
THEY'VE ALL BEEN SMASHED!
THE FLASKS THAT DE-CORATED THE ROOM ...

THIS ISN'T SOMETHING A SANE PERSON WOULD DO!
COULDN'T THIS HAVE BEEN DONE BY WANIBE-SAN?
"PLEASE FORGIVE ME", HE SAID...
THINKING ABOUT IT WASN'T HE SHOUTING SOME STRANGE THINGS...?
I... I HEARD IT CLEARLY
SO, HE FELL FROM HERE...
BUT WHY WOULD THERE BE A DOOR HERE ?
IT'S THE ENTRANCE TO THE HALLWAY THAT CONNECTS THE RESEARCH BUILDING TO THE DORMI-TORIES.
BECAUSE THERE WAS THE RISK OF COLLAPSE DUE TO WEAR, THE DOOR TO THIS HALLWAY WAS CLOSED OFF. IT WAS SUP-POSED TO BE SECURED BY A PADLOCK

THE PADLOCK IS BROKEN.
WERE THEY USED TO CUT THROUGH IT...?
THERE WERE PLIERS LYING BESIDE THE BODY...
THEN, WANIBE...
IS THIS... YET ANOTHER SUICIDE INCIDENT!?
YES IT'S THE SAME AS FROM 2 YEARS AGO, YOUNG CHIEF.
HA-HAJIMA-SAN! TH-THEN YOU MEAN..!?

THE START OF "HITOKUI", PERHAPS.
"HITOKUI"?

H-HEY!
A-AYANE!
WHY DID THIS HAPPEN...?
WANIBE...
IT APPEARS THE VICTIM INTENTIONALLY USED PLIERS TO BREAK THE LOCK AND JUMPED OFF FROM HERE
HOWEVER YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT HAS TO BE A SUICIDE
"HITOKUI", HUH?
SUICIDE...?
THAT CAN'T BE!
NO WAY... THERE'S NO WAY THAT CAN BE IT

HEY, MAYU ...
WHAT HAJIMA-SAN HAD SAID EARLIER
...
WHAT A TERRIBLE THING TO HAPPEN
A FORMER RESEARCHER WHO JUST KILLED HIMSELF ...
THE START OF "HITOKUI".
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
THIS RESEARCH INSTITUTE WAS ESTABLISHED FOR THE STUDY OF ENERGY PRODUCED BY BOUNTY MOSS.
IT STARTED DURING THE WAR ..
..

One by one, the researchers suffered nervous breakdowns,
and thus led to several suicide incidents.
HOWEVER, WHEN THE WAR DREW OUT TOO LONG
AT THE TIME MANY JAPANESE EXPERTS ARRIVED TO BECOME RESEARCHERS HERE
AND THIS ONCE SMALL INSTITUTE GRADUALLY EARNED INVESTMENTS THAT TURNED IT INTO WHAT IT IS NOW
SINCE THEN, PEOPLE FROM THE OUTSIDE HAVE COME TO CALL IT BY A NAME.
...
SO THE CAUSE OF THESE INCIDENTS COULDN'T BE DETERMINED
NO MATTER WHO, THEY WERE ALL PEOPLE WHO HELD HIGH HOPES FOR THE FUTURE
WAS KNOWN AS THE MAN-EATING RESEARCH LAB.
THIS INSTITUTE THAT SWALLOWED UP THE LIVES OF ITS PEOPLE...

AND THE UPROAR OVER THE SUICIDES WAS COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN.
BUT, THAT WAS JUST A MOMENTARY THING.
WHEN THE WAR ENDED, THE INSTITUTE BEGAN TO DECLINE.
YES...
TH-THIS LAB WAS ACTUALLY CALLED THAT!?
THAT IS, UNTIL THAT DAY 2 YEARS AGO...!
THE MAN-EATING LAB'S "HITOKUI" HAS
STARTED ONCE AGAIN...
THAT TIME, MY FATHER, ALONG WITH 5 OTHER RESEARCHERS, COMMITTED SUICIDE ONE AFTER ANOTHER.
THOSE WHO STILL REMEMBERED THE DAYS LONG AGO DREW UP THOSE RUMORS AGAIN
THAT TIME MAYU-CHAN'S FATHER..
... YES.

BUT, IT'S TRUE THAT... WHEN WANIBE-SAN JUMPED OUT FROM HIS ROOM,
TANISE-SAN ALSO TRIED TO COMMIT SUICIDE THEN.
HUH? EVEN THAT SHOW-OFF DID!?
...I WOULDN'T KNOW. I WAS STILL IN TOKYO AT THE TIME...
SO THE INCIDENTS FROM BACK THEN WERE NEVER MADE CLEAR?
YOU SEE, LATELY I'VE FOUND A MES-SAGE ABOUT THE "MIDORIKAWA FACTOR" MY FATHER LEFT BEFORE ME.
WITH THIS, THE SECRET TO THE "MIDORIKAWA FACTOR" COULD BE MADE CLEAR, AND I SENT OUT A MAIL TO ALL THE FORMER RE-SEARCH STAFF.
...MAIL?
WHY WOULD THE PEOPLE WHO ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BEFORE...
BE HERE AGAIN ...!?
...I DON'T KNOW. PER-HAPS IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE MAIL I SENT OUT...?
WHY'D YOU GUYS COME HERE--?
MAYBE FOR "TREASURE HUNTING"?
!!
AND THEN CAME THE ONE WHO JUST KILLED HIMSELF, WANIBE-SAN.
SO, TANISE-SAN AND MAKINE-SAN ARRIVED FIRST,

EH?
PUTTING IT ANOTHER WAY, I ASKED MIYUKI TO CALL OVER KINDAICHI-KUN
BECAUSE OF THAT MESSAGE.
SO IT WAS ABOUT THAT MESSAGE, HUH?
THAT GUY CALLED MAKINE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT "TREASURE HUNTING".
YOU STILL HAVE IT...!
...
カサ。
Kai-kun is 1, Takatsu-san is 18, Saga-san is 9, Torimoto-san is 7, Terasako-kun is 1, Fujioka-kun is 20, and Toride-san is 15.
Kai - 1
Takatsu - 18
Saga - 9
Torimoto - 7
Terasako - 1
Fujioka - 20
Toride - 15
LIKE THIS... RIGHT?
MAYU-CHAN, THEN YOU...
THE CONTENTS OF THE MESSAGE FROM YOUR FATHER YOU FOUND WAS WRITTEN UP IN CODE.
HEHE...! IN THAT CASE, YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT THE "ANSWER" YET.
OKAY. I'LL GIVE YOU JUST A LITTLE HINT!
BUT I COULDN'T MAKE OUT WHAT IT WAS TALKING ABOUT, AND I'VE HAD THIS WEIRD FEELING ABOUT IT... IT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME ALL DAY.
YEAH!
DID YOU SOLVE IT?

EVEN IF THIS RIDDLE SEEMS LIKE ONE YOU ESPECIALLY CAN'T SOLVE ...
THERE IS A CERTAIN TRICK TO IT.
A TRIIICK!?
YEP! AND THAT'S IT FOR THE HINT.
Kai-kun is 1, Takatsu-san
Soga-san is 9, Torimoto-
ako-kun is 1, Fujioka-ku
Toride-san is 15.
...
OKAY! GOOD NIGHT, YOU TWO.
GOOD NIGHT, MAYU-CHAN!
SINCE IT'S GETTING LATE, WE SHOULD GET TO SLEEP!
AH! THEN LET ME CLEAN UP THE CUPS.
IT'S FINE, MIYUKI.
FATE THAT CAN'T BE DEFIED...
THIS IS FATE...!!
FOR THE REST TO BE PERFECT...
I'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME...!!

IN THIS "MAN-EATING LAB",
ONCE AGAIN... SOMEONE WILL BE SWALLOWED UP!
Huff
Huff
WITH THIS RAZOR, THERE WILL BE ANOTHER WHO'LL TO ATTEMPT SUICIDE...